Policing of Railways

3017. SHRI NEPALDEV BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that several High Power Committees have agreed that the present system of policing on the railways by the State Government's in their States' territory totally failed to prevent and detect pilferage of the railway properties and looting of passengers and their belongings;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Government railway police lack in technical knowledge of investigation; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Government, on the whole issue and the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Railway Reforms Committee were of the view that problems of Government Railway Police are its development on the 'Provincial System' and lack of modernisation.

(c) Government Railway Police, which is under State Government provides escorts on fast/superfast/Mail/Express trains according to local conditions and requirements. Railway Protection Force which is under Department of Railway also assists Government Railway Police in this task.

The Central Government is providing financial assistance for modernisation of police forces in the States.

Recruitments in the ArmedForces

3018. SHRI NEPALDEV BHATTACHARJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the manner of recruitments in the armed forces;

(b) whether it has any bearing upon the status of force as an armed force of the Union; and

(c) in what manner recruitments in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Border Security Force, Central Reserve Police, Central Industrial Security Force and the Railway Protection Force are made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) to (c) The manner of recruitment in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Border Security Force, Central Reserve Police, Cenral Industrial Security Force and the Railway Protection Force is explained in the Annexure. (*See* Appendix CXL, Annexure No 106) In keeping with the importance of the Armed Forces, detailed physical and medical examination is conducted besides adhering to requisite educational standards in making selections for recruitment in the Armed Forces.

Deciding Factor for Armed Force of the Union

3019. SHRI NEPALDEV BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state what the various tests which have been laid down for application to any organisation for treating any force as an Armed Force of the Union?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): According to the Supreme Court, the expression "Armed Forces of the Union" must be given its ordinary meaning and would not be limited to the Military, Naval and Air Force. Any other force constituted as an Armed Force would be included. Consequently, any force of the Union which has been